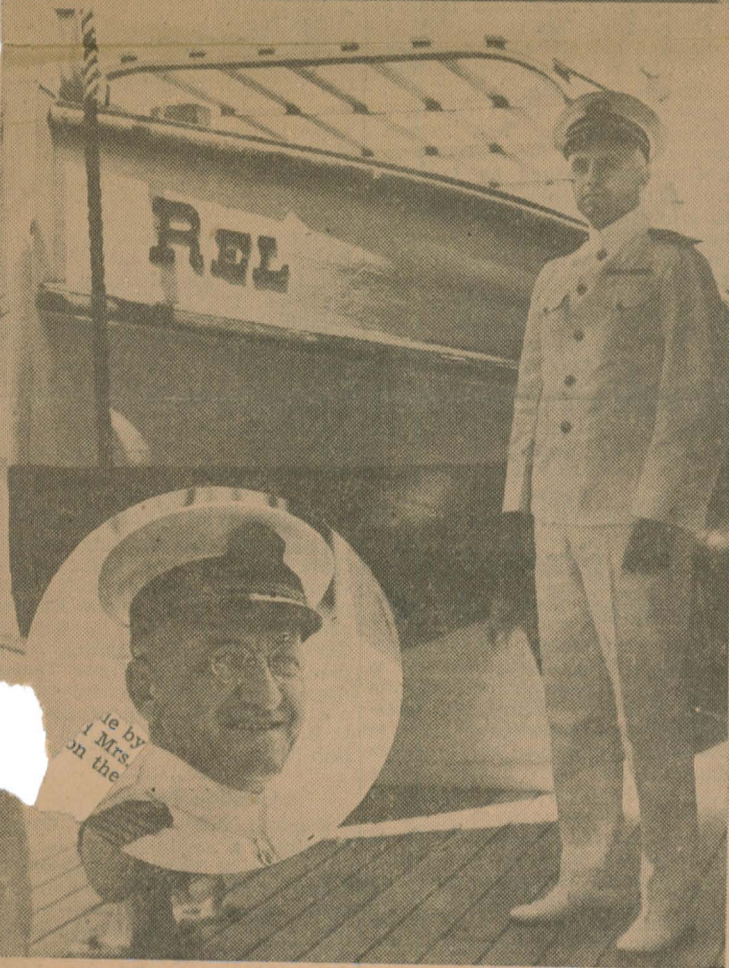


## Sailors' 'Sick Bay' Not So Bad



Above—Nurses of the hospital ship U. S. S. Relief blockade the pilot house. From left—Helen Houg, Wilhelmina Stauder, Jane Lynch, Constance Smith, Gertrude Dean, chief nurse; Hermine Schueller and Minnie Overton. Center—A. G. Schubert of the U. S. S. Vestal doesn't appear very sick as Nurse Anna Rodding looks him over. Below—Commander C. E. Van Hook stands beside a boat used to bring patients aboard. Circle—Captain T. W. Reed is senior medical officer of the ship.

sweets need have little fear of toothache. There are three dentists and a complete dental laboratory aboard. Pity the poor microbe in these quarters!

This is the second hospital ship in the navy to bear the name Relief. The first Relief was a converted vessel used as a hospital ship during the Spanish-American war, the Philippine insurrection and the Boxer uprising in China. It was retired in 1908 after the 'round-the-world' cruise with the fleet.

The present Relief was the first ship to be designed and built exclusively for treatment of sick and injured personnel of the navy. It was constructed between 1917 and 1920 at the navy yard in Philadelphia at a cost of approximately \$4,500,000. It was commissioned in 1920.

Commanding officer of the ship is Commander C. E. Van Hook, a naval academy graduate of 1909. Captain T. W. Reed is senior medical officer and Miss G. M. Dean chief nurse. She has 11 nurses.

Statistics for 1936 show that the Relief hospitalized 2282 patients or a daily average of 126 patients. There were 515 operations in the main operating room and 362 eye, ear, nose and throat operations.

With its over-all length of 484 feet and beam of 61 feet the ship is quite commodious, having four decks in the hull, two above and two below the water line; and four decks above the hull, including the bridge deck. There are two passenger and two freight elevators.

Although its primary function is to treat sick and wounded members of the fleet and return them to their ships, the Relief is also prepared for any land emergencies which may arise, as it carries a complete field hospital which can be set up on shore to serve the sick and wounded of a military expedition or a civil disaster. This proved of great value after the earthquake in Managua, Nicaragua, in March, 1931, and again at Long Beach, in March, 1933.

## Navy's Floating Hospital Marvel of Efficiency

By John B. Spalding

It's almost a pleasure to be a sick sailor in the fleet—that is, it's likely to be much more pleasurable if you're sent to the hospital ship U. S. S. Relief to recuperate.

Her white sides agleam in the sun, she attracts the admiring glances of all who cross the Broadway bridge. Spic and span from stem to stern her trim lines remind one of a luxurious yacht.

The word hospital may have a homely connotation for many but there's little gloom aboard the Relief. Good-natured banter about "operation" resounds softly throughout the convalescent wards. The patients while away the time with radio music and other

seize the time to catch up on their overdue correspondence. For those that are able to go on deck there are movies every evening. Recent hits have been "After the Thin Man" and "Maid of Salem."

Human afflictions ranging from a blister to a major operation are treated on the ship, which has a berthing capacity of 360 patients in addition to its crew of 329. With its fully equipped laboratories and X-ray rooms physicians aboard the boat can find out much more about the patients than they know themselves. Sailors with